



SEEN and HEARD

TERM 4 / 2021



GENERATION ALPHA

DEBBIE CLARK

Hello, Kia ora, Bula, Malo e lelei, Talofa

The Children's Mission Department are excited to bring you its first newsletter. We hope it will be an interesting read and inspire your involvement in Children's Mission wherever you serve.

I also want to acknowledge the COVID season we are currently in and for the extended periods of lockdown some of us are experiencing. It is not easy days, and we pray that you will know God's presence during this time.

As I reflect on my years of experience of being involved in Children's Mission and raising my own family, I am reminded of how things have changed over the years. I am also reminded of how important it is to understand the children that we serve, regardless of whether they are an integral part of our faith communities or are part of the communities we serve.

No doubt you will have heard of the Millennials, Gen X, Y and Z, but do you know what the latest generation is called?

They are the first generation born entirely in a new century (21st century), they will be the largest generation ever, growing up faster, early adopters of technology, will live for longer and will be more culturally diverse. They are Generation ALPHA (2010 to 2025). There is so much that I want to tell you about Generation Alpha and would encourage you to go to generationalpha.com to find out more.

You might wonder why I am sharing this with you.

For me it has never been just about the delivery of a programme, but equally about the children we serve. What do we understand about them and how is our discipleship connecting with them and the world they live in. How are we connecting with children and their families in our communities to show them who Jesus is? While Generation Alpha seem to be well positioned for success, there are also significant challenges like mental health issues and lack of confidence in an uncertain future. Generation Alpha are looking to their parents/guardians and leaders for guidance.

This is where you and I have a part to play. This is where we might have to look at our methods or how we disciple our children, so that children and their families will know without a doubt, that God is real, loving, kind, compassionate, understanding and that our communities of faith are a place where everyone is welcome and is a place where children and their families can find hope and belonging.

Thank you for all that you do to allow our children and their families to 'SEEN AND HEARD' in our faith communities.



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR 2022 BACK TO SCHOOL...

The Children's Mission team will release new Back to School resources this December. Keep an eye out on our social media and website for its release.

NOTIFY ME



WE'RE ON THE SEARCH

The Territorial Children's Mission Team is on the lookout for someone to be the Territorial Children's Project Assistant! This is a fixed-term (12 months) full-time position (37.5 hours) based at The Salvation Army Territorial Headquarters in Wellington starting late February! We'd love to hear from you if you're interested!

READ MORE



I HAVE DECIDED

Have you got children making first time decisions in your space? I Have Decided: New Believers packs are an awesome way to encourage children who make first time or recommitment. Each pack comes with a Bible, a devotional, and other helpful resources and information to get them started! Buy one while stocks last!

GET YOURS HERE

YOUR VOICE MATTERS



If you haven't heard, we are currently running a survey called 'Your Voice Matters'. The aim of this survey is to provide a pathway for us to hear as many voices as possible as a starting point for the development of The Salvation Army's new Next Gen Plan.

Along with the survey, we are also going to be running focus groups around the country as the COVID climate permits us to do so.

Debs and Mat would like to thank those who have taken time to complete the Aotearoa New Zealand and Fiji versions of the survey, and we're excited to let you know that the Tongan version of the survey is now live as well!

So, if you are involved with The Salvation Army and are under the age of 30, or if you are older than 30 but lead young adults, youth, or children, we would love it if you could complete the survey. You could be a full or part-time employee, a volunteer or an officer—everyone's voice is valued. And if you know of someone who used to be involved in these spaces but has since moved on, feel free to invite them to do it too.

TAKE THE SURVEY ▶

LAUNCHPAD

Launchpad – Christian Values Education is a not-for-profit organisation that equips children with tools to navigate our ever-changing world. Their programme runs in over 400 primary schools across Aotearoa New Zealand.

To check out more on what Launchpad's programme has to offer, how you can help out with the work they do or join their team of volunteers - check out their website.

READ MORE ▶

OUR TOP PODCAST PICKS



WHAT'S BEEN ON OUR PLAYLIST

Orange Kids – Covering a range of helpful kidmin info, Orange's podcast has something for everyone. We particularly love episode 031 What Every Youth Pastor Wishes Their Children's Pastor Knew.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN NOW](#)

The Parenting for Faith Podcast – The team at Parenting for Faith have been producing this great weekly podcast (currently on hiatus for the UK's summer break). It's great for leaders and caregivers alike.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN NOW](#)

The Jesus Storybook Bible – Author Sally Lloyd Jones shares what inspired her to write the book, and interviews special guests about how God has moved in their lives. It's great for the family to listen to together.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN NOW](#)

LIFEWALK CHAPLAINCY

Life walk Trust has been supporting state schools in Aotearoa New Zealand since 1990. They currently have 250 chaplains in schools across the country and are looking for more.

If you have a spare 4 hours a week and would like to walk alongside vulnerable children and their families, check out Life Walk's website to see how you can become a chaplain. There could be upcoming training opportunities in your area!

CHECK OUT MORE ▶

TIME TO THINK ABOUT CHRISTMAS



Keep an eye out for these soon to be released Christmas and Advent resources:

- Mainly Ministries have released a 4-week family advent resource that will be freely [available on their website](#).
- Children's Bible Ministries have produced It's All About Christmas, a 3 week downloadable curriculum available in two age ranges (3-6yrs & 7-12yrs). The release date isn't set, so keep an eye out [on their website](#).

FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

